

REMARKS/RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

The foregoing amendments in the claims are of formal nature and do not add new matter.

In an Office Action mailed on October 3, 2003 in connection with the above-identified patent application Applicants were requested to elect, for examination purposes, one of the inventions of Groups I-IV listed on page 2 of the Office Action.

The invention of Group I (claims 1-19, and 46) is hereby elected, with traverse.

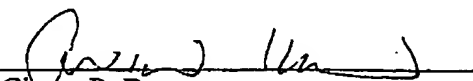
Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 20-45 will be dependent, directly or indirectly, on claim 1, carrying all of its recitations. Accordingly, the claims of Group II (claims 20-45) should be examined in the present application along with the Group I claims.

In addition, applicants submit that the claims of Group III (claims 47-48) are drawn to subject matter closely related to Groups I and II. Just as the methods of Groups I and II, the method of Group III (claims 47-48) concerns a method of determining the amount of an analyte in a fluid sample in the presence of an interfering substance. Just like the methods of Groups I and II, the method of group III involves the use of a first and a second antibody, and a step of determining the total amount of the free analyte and the analyte bound to an interfering substance. Since the methods are closely related and require a grossly overlapping search, in the interest of efficiency they should be examined in the same application.

Although no fees are believed to be due at this time, please charge any fees, including any fees for extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-1641 (Attorney Docket No.: 39766-0066A). Please direct any calls in connection with this application to the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: October 27, 2003


Ginger R. Dreger
Reg. No. 33,055

HELLER ERHMAN WHITE & McAULIFFE LLP

Customer No. 25213
275 Middlefield Road
Menlo Park, CA 94025
Tel: (650) 324-7000
Fax: (650) 324-0638